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DEATH OF E. O. S. SCHOLEFIELD

At his home in Victoria, British Columbia, this gifted worker in the field of Northwestern history passed away on Christmas Day, 1919, after a long period of illness.

Ethelbert Olaf Stuart Scholefield was born at St. Wilfrid's Ryde, Isle of Wight, on May 31, 1875. The family arrived in British Columbia in 1887. The father, the late Rev. Stuart Clement Scholefield, at first located at New Westminster, became Rector at Esquimalt. The son after private tutoring finished his course in the Victoria High School and entered the service of the Provincial Library. In 1894, he became assistant to R. E. Gosnell, the first Provincial Librarian. Four years later, Mr. Gosnell was transferred to other duties and Mr. Scholefield became Provincial Librarian, which position he held to the time of his death. His duties were expanded by the addition of those of Provincial Archivist.

He was most enthusiastic in his tireless and arduous work. He is credited with having added 50,000 volumes to the library and many collections of priceless manuscripts, account books, newspapers and other materials gathered from all corners of British Columbia and from any or every source so long as the records sought bore directly or indirectly upon the history of the Pacific Northwest.

He dreamed of larger quarters for the growing collections. The dreams turned to plans and finally to realization. The foundation stone of the present Library Building was laid with appropriate ceremonies by the Duke of Connaught and, of course, Mr. Scholefield was happy. He then gave himself to the tasks of arranging and cataloging the masses of materials so that the library could render the large service intended. The Provincial Parliament gave generous support. The British Columbia Provincial Library is today famous for its wealth of materials dealing with the history of the Northwest. In subsequent years those who use and admire that library will be sure to know about E. O. S. Scholefield who gave twenty-five years of his life to its upbuilding.

Mr. Scholefield served on several occasions as secretary of the Lieutenant-Governor. He was a member of the council of the American Library Association, president of the British Columbia Library Association, a fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute and of the Royal Geographical Society. He was a member of the Union

Club of Victoria, of the Masonic Order and of the Authors' Club of London.

In 1907, Mr. Scholefield was married to Lillian May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon E. Corbould, K. C., of New Westminster. Four sons were born to them, one of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Scholefield and the three remaining sons survive.

Those who had the privilege of going with Mr. Scholefield on trips into the country or out-of-the-way towns in search of old manuscripts, are the ones who are warmest in praise of his eager nature and his companionableness. They always saw him at his best. There was another side which in the spirit of fairness should be mentioned. This has reference to broken promises. Libraries, officers, authors and editors have for years complained. One prominent author, who was personally a friend writes: "The main trouble with Mr. Scholefield was that he was living under nervous strain all the time, continually making engagements he could not fill. This was largely due to his generous nature, but was a weakness just the same."

If he had been able to keep all his promises and engagements he would have been a much greater character. But time will soften this acknowledged blemish. He will be remembered as one who gave all too freely of his time and strength to his great and successful work of building up the Provincial Library of British Columbia. It will certainly be difficult to fill the place made vacant by the death of E. O. S. Scholefield.

Mr. John Forsyth, who was assistant to Mr. Scholefield, has been appointed Librarian and Archivist of the Provincial Library.

C. B. BAGLEY.